



## **Load Line Policy Notes**

### ***Table of Contents***

These "Load Line Policy Notes" (LLPN) consolidate into a single document current USCG load line policies that have evolved since the previous (1990) revision of Chapter 6.F, "Load Lines," of the Marine Safety Manual. The Notes also include expanded discussions and clarifications for both domestic U.S. and international ICLL load line regimes.

The LLPN will form the basis of the next revision to MSM Chapter 6.F. In the meantime, any questions or comments concerning these Notes should be directed to the U.S. Coast Guard Naval Architecture Division (G-PSE-2) at (202) 267-2988.

---

#### **LLPN Section 1: Overview of Load Line Assignment**

- 1.a: Purpose
- 1.b: Applicability
- 1.c: Freeboard assignment
- 1.d: Conditions of assignment
- 1.e: Types of load lines  
*Figure 1-1: Table of Required Load Lines for U.S. Vessels*
- 1.f: Authority

#### **LLPN Section 2: References**

*Figure 2-1: Table of Load Line NVICs*

#### **LLPN Section 3: Definitions and Explanations**

#### **LLPN Section 4: Load Line Conventions, Statutes, and Regulations**

- 4.a: IMO International Convention on Load Lines (ICLL), 1966
- 4.b: IMO Protocol of 1988 relating to ICLL, 1966
- 4.c: 46 USC Chapter 21, "General Definitions"
- 4.d: 46 USC Chapter 51, "Load Lines"
- 4.e: 46 CFR Part 7, "Boundary Lines"
- 4.f: 46 CFR Parts 41-47, "Load Lines"
- 4.g: MSM Vol. IV, Chapter 6.F, "Load Lines"

#### **LLPN Section 5: Administration of Load Lines**

- 5.a: USCG Responsibilities
- 5.b: Delegated Assigning Authorities
- 5.c: Assigning Authority Duties

[LLPN Section 6: Enforcement of Load Line Regulations](#)

- 6.a: Introduction
- 6.b: Detection of violations
- 6.c: Detention of vessels
- 6.d: Penalties
- 6.e: Cancellation of certificates

[LLPN Section 7: Applicability -- Vessels](#)

- 7.a: Background
- 7.b: General applicability
- 7.c: Vessels included
- 7.d: Vessels excluded
- 7.e: Vessels requesting a voluntary load line

[LLPN Section 8: Applicability -- International and Domestic Voyages](#)

- 8.a: International voyages
- 8.b: Domestic voyages
- 8.c: Foreign-flagged vessels in U.S. waters

[LLPN Section 9: General Load Line Requirements](#)

- 9.a: Operational regulations for U.S. vessels
- 9.b: Stability standards
- 9.c: Structural standards
- 9.d: Information for the Master
- 9.e: Freeboard assignment and marks
- 9.f: Conditions of assignment
- 9.g: Issuance of certificates, inspections, and surveys
- 9.h: Duration and extensions
- 9.i: Cancellation and invalidations
- 9.j: Removal of hull markings
- 9.k: Submersion of marks
- 9.l: Exemptions and equivalencies
- 9.m: Single voyage load line exemptions
  - Figure 9-1: Sample single-voyage ICLL Exemption Certificate*
  - Figure 9-2: Sample single-voyage domestic LL Exemption Certificate*
- 9.n: Seakeeping analysis

[LLPN Section 10: Load Line Marks](#)

- 10.a: Zones, areas, and seasonal periods
- 10.b: Regular (salt water service) marks
- 10.c: Timber marks
- 10.d: Great Lakes marks
- 10.e: Subdivision marks
- 10.f: Special Puget Sound marks for TAPS tankers

[LLPN Section 11: International Load Lines](#)

- 11.a: ICLL and the Protocol of 1988
- 11.b: Assigning authority
- 11.c: Routes
- 11.d: Applicable standards
- 11.e: Specific USCG requirements with respect to certain ICLL Regulations
- 11.f: Special provisions for small passenger vessels operating within 20 miles of land
- 11.g: Single-voyage exemptions

[LLPN Section 12: "Domestic Service" Load Lines](#)

- 12.a: General
- 12.b: Assigning authority
- 12.c: Routes
- 12.d: Applicable standards
- 12.e: Single voyage exemptions

[LLPN Section 13: "Special Service" Domestic Voyage Load Lines](#)

- 13.a: General
- 13.b: Historical background
- 13.c: Discussion
- 13.d: Assigning authority
- 13.e: Routes and voyage limits
- 13.f: Inter-island voyages
- 13.g: Applicable standards
- 13.h: Self-propelled open hopper dredges
- 13.i: Weather contingency plan (Heavy weather plan)
- 13.j: Requesting a Special Service load line
- 13.k: Freeboard assignment and load line marks
- 13.l: Voyages outside the Special Service routes

[LLPN Section 14: Great Lakes Load Lines](#)

- 14.a: General
- 14.b: Extent of Great Lakes waters
- 14.c: Load line requirements
- 14.d: Use of ocean service (ICLL) marks on the Great Lakes  
*Figure 14-1: Table of Applicable Load Line Marks*
- 14.e: Special load line provisions on certain Great Lakes routes

[LLPN Section 15: Subdivision Load Lines for Passenger Vessels](#)

- 15.a: General
- 15.b: Background
- 15.c: Subdivision load lines for passenger vessels
- 15.d: Subdivision load lines for small passenger vessels
- 15.e: Subdivision marks
- 15.f: Conditions of assignment

[LLPN Section 16: Multiple Freeboard Assignments](#)

- 16.a: General
- 16.b: Marking
- 16.c: Changing the load line assignment
- 16.d: Application of other laws and regulations
- 16.e: Special case: Puget Sound TAPS tankers

[LLPN Section 17: Load Lines for Vessels of Unusual Form and Service](#)

- 17.a: High-Speed Craft (HSC)
- 17.b: Submersibles (submarines)
- 17.c: Float-on/float-off (FLO/FLO) vessels
- 17.d: MODUs
- 17.e: Multi-hull vessels
- 17.f: Integrated tug/barge (ITBs) units
- 17.g: Permanently-moored vessels (PMVs) and floating structures
- 17.h: SPARs and tension-leg platforms (TLPs)
- 17.i: Self-propelled open hopper dredges - "working freeboard"
- 17.j: Open hopper vessels (dredges and barges) - hatch cover exemption
- 17.k: Liftboats
- 17.l: Commercial fishing industry vessels

[LLPN Section 18: Sample Load Line Certificates](#)

[LLPN Summary of Updates](#)

*Summary of updates in LLPN (with respect to MSM Chapter 6.F)*

---